

# YOUNG GIRL LEAPS TEN STORIES TO INSTANT DEATH

Miss Elizabeth Smith Jumps From Upper Window in Mutual Building.

DESPONDENCY ASSIGNED AS REASON FOR SUICIDE

Came Here From Durham, N. C., and Was Various Employed as Stenographer.

BOARDED ON SOUTH FIFTH

Immediate Acquaintances in Richmond Unable to Account for Rash Deed.

Miss Elizabeth Smith, twenty-two years old, of 15 South Fifth Street, leaped from a window on the tenth floor of the Mutual Building at 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and was instantly killed when she struck the concrete and glass skylights in the partially inclosed court on the western side of the building. She was a native of Oxford, N. C. She is said to have been in ill health for several days, and the only reason advanced for the suicide is that she was despondent on account of her physical condition. Detective Sergeant Willy saw the body a few minutes after the suicide, and ordered it turned over to Undertaker T. Christman. No funeral arrangements will be made until the arrival to-day of the young woman's brothers from Philadelphia and Hampton.

The suicide was one of the most sensational that has occurred in Richmond within recent years. News of the rash act was quickly circulated in the downtown section of the city, and within a few minutes the streets were almost blocked with curiosity-seekers, who made every effort to pass the coroner of police and get a glimpse of the mangled figure which lay on the walkway. The windows of the Mutual Building were crowded with persons from the various offices, and for nearly an hour after the undertaker had removed the body persons continued to crowd into the court and to gaze for minutes after minutes at the spot where the young woman's body had fallen.

**SUPERINTENDENT FIRST TO REACH GIRL'S BODY**

Superintendent William Parker, of the Mutual Building, was in his office, directly opposite the spot where the body fell, when he was startled by the sound of its impact against the stone walkway. He hurriedly entered the court, and was the first person to reach the woman. She was already dead. Ambulance Surgeon Walker, who arrived shortly afterwards, said that death had probably been instantaneous. Superintendent Parker said that he judged from the sound of the body striking the walkway that some piece of heavy machinery had fallen from a window.

E. G. Freeman, who occupies office 1611 in the Mutual Building, is said to have been standing along the corridor at the time Miss Smith climbed into the window. The lower sash had already been raised and the young woman was standing almost erect at the time he saw her. Freeman, who realized her intentions and called to her. At that instant she leaped. Freeman turned and sped to the elevator, by which he descended to the area-way, where the body fell. Charles Bristow, an insurance agent, with offices on the tenth floor, also noticed the window, and remarked upon the fact that it was raised, but did not see the girl. Freeman said he had been in his office several minutes.

**STRIKES RAILING IN DOWNWARD FLIGHT**

The young woman is supposed to have come from the women's waiting-room, from the window of which she leaped, about 3:25 o'clock. She sprang from the window about 3:30 o'clock. In the descent her body struck an iron railing, and she fell a short distance to the floor of a stairway down to the tenth floor. The body rebounded and crashed to the concrete walk below, where it lay a few minutes before it was removed.

A vanity case carried by the young woman was crushed. So, too, was a bracelet and several rings, portions of which were picked up near the spot where her body was found. Only the nose-clip, a hair clip, a comb and her clothing was torn and destroyed. A trap-door on a water drain pipe directly under the spot on which the body struck was shattered to bits a few inches in diameter, in evidence of the fact that it was made of cast iron bars probably half an inch square. Physicians stated that practically every bone in the woman's body was broken.

It was with some difficulty that the body was identified by the police. The young woman carried absolutely nothing, however, on a card issued by an employment bureau was found a single telephone number, and it was by this means that persons in her boarding-house were notified of her death. The number was that of the telephone of P. D. Bigger, 15 South Fifth Street. He was given a description of the clothing worn by the girl, and at once came to the Mutual Building. He identified the body as that of Miss Smith.

**CAME FROM DURHAM TO ATTEND SCHOOL**

Bigger said last night that Miss Smith had come to Richmond from Durham about two years ago to attend a local business college. She completed her course there, and secured work as a stenographer. It is said that she was not compelled to work for her support, as her brother in law, who is a well-to-do man, aided her in a great deal. She worked but a short length of time at any one place, Bigger said, and often for weeks at a time was without employment. For a short time she worked as a stenographer with the committee which labored for the establishment of a Federal Reserve Bank in this city. This was one of the last positions she held.

According to Bigger, Miss Smith's only relative in Richmond is a Miss Dorothy Webb, a cousin of 1611 South Third Street, whose home is in Boyd.

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## Leaps From Skyscraper



MISS ELIZABETH SMITH.

## PEACE ON BORDER PROBABLE

Scott Has Satisfactory Conference With Mexican Leaders.

NAO, ARIZ., December 23.—Peace along the entire Mexican border is a possibility, as the result of conferences to-day and to-night between General H. L. Scott, United States chief of staff, and the two Mexican leaders of Sonora.

"Very satisfactory" was General Scott's opinion of his conference with Benjamín Hill, Carranza's defender of Nogales, Sonora. He deemed the result favorable to the final solution of the border troubles. The meeting lasted less than an hour, and was held in the bullet-damaged United States custom-house, fifty feet north of the international boundary.

Governor Maytorena, besieger of the village, came across the line later to the tent occupied by General Scott and General Hill, who commands the 4,700 American troops here. He said he refused, because of a constitutional provision prohibiting such a journey, to come in his capacity of Governor of Sonora. Therefore, he came as "military chief," riding in a four-mule United States Army ambulance, sent at his request.

## MORE RELIEF FOR BELGIANS

Two Ships Landed With Food Sail From United States.

NEW YORK, December 23.—Two more ships loaded with food for Belgium sailed from the United States to-day. They are the St. Kentigerna, from New York, and the Ferrona, from Philadelphia.

The St. Kentigerna has on board 40,000 bushels of wheat from the West. The Ferrona carries a combination cargo made up of contributions from the Belgian relief fund, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Commission for Relief in Belgium.

One of the largest individual gifts made to relieve the suffering caused by the war was announced to-day when the committee raising funds for the American Ambulance Hospital in Paris acknowledged the receipt of \$25,000 from William K. Vanderbilt. Within the past two weeks this committee has received cables from Paris calling for 100 automobiles, to be used as ambulances. Contributions for this purpose already have resulted in the purchase of ten machines.

## REDUCE MINIMUM PRICE

Stock Exchange Officials Announced New Figures for Trading.

NEW YORK, December 23.—The New York Stock Exchange announced to-day further reductions in the minimum price, at which certain stocks may be traded in as follows: Atlantic Coast Line, 10; Louisville and Nashville, 15; Seaboard Railway preferred, 10; Southern Railway, 14; Southern Railway preferred, 58; Virginia-Carolina Chemical, 17; Virginia-Carolina Chemical preferred, 55.

These reductions ranged from a seven-point decrease in the case of Virginia-Carolina Chemical preferred to a one-point decrease in the case of Southern Railway common.

## RICH GIFT FOR HACKETT

Actor Will Get More Than \$1,000,000 From Trowbridge Estate.

NEW YORK, December 23.—The prize Christmas box of the holiday season will be handed out in a day or two to James K. Hackett, the actor, by the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, as executor of the estate left by Minnie Hackett Trowbridge.

The executor to-day obtained an order from the Surrogate Court to distribute the estate, amounting to \$1,389,000, to the various legatees. The actor, as next of kin, will get over \$1,000,000, in addition to the \$70,000 income he has received from the residuary fund since Mrs. Trowbridge died.

## SAVED BY COW'S SKELETON

Findings of Bones Keeps Convicted Man Out of Penitentiary.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., December 23.—Discovery of the skeleton of a cow in Howard County woods saved William Kennedy, aged twenty-four, from entering the penitentiary to-day. He had been convicted of stealing the cow and sentenced to one year.

Kennedy has been permitted to come to Little Rock, where he was able to go to the penitentiary to surrender, bearing a delegation of friends arrived, hearing a sworn statement from the owner of the cow that the animal's skeleton was found.

Hays at once issued a pardon for Kennedy.

## WILSON AS SANTA CLAUS

Has Christmas Tree at White House for Small Grandchildren.

WASHINGTON, December 23.—President Wilson will "play Santa Claus" Christmas Day for his small grandchildren, Anne Cothran. A large Christmas tree was delivered to-day at the White House.

The President, with his three daughters, Mrs. F. B. Sayre, Mrs. W. G. McAdoo and Miss Margaret Wilson, and other relatives, plans to go to church on Christmas morning. He will attend only to absolutely necessary business during the day.

## KIPING DESCRIBES "MAKING OF ARMY"

Visits Huge Drill Sheds, Where Miniature Rifles Are Busy.

PRACTICE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

New Army Does Not Cultivate Useless Emotions—Men Are Cheerful.

BY RUDYARD KIPING.

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LONDON, December 10.—At the next halt I fell into Scotland—blocks and blocks of it—a world of precise-spoken, thin-lipped men with keen eyes. They gave me directions which led by friendly stages to the heart of another work of creation and a huge drill shed, where the miniature rifles were busy.

Few things are duller than morristude practice in the shed, unless it be judging triangles of error against blank walls. I thought of the military policeman with the sore toe, for these "innocents" were visibly enjoying both games. They sighted over the sand bags with the gravity of surgeons, while the instructors hurried knowledge at them like slingshots.

"Mon! D'ye see your error? Step here, mon, and I'll show ye." Teacher and taught glared at each other like theologians in full debate, for this is the Scot's way of giving and getting knowledge.

At the miniature targets squad after squad rose from behind their deadly target cards and followed the instructor, five heads together under a window.

## No Word of Hope.

"Aye! That's where I loosed too soon." "I misjudged I took too much of the foresight." Not a word of hope and comfort in their achievements. Nothing but Calvinistic self-criticism. The men ran a little smaller than the North Country folk. Nor were they in depth of chest, girth of forearm, biceps and neck measurement they were beautifully level and well up to the mark, and the compass practice had their balance drive and recovery.

As the light faded one noticed the whites of their eyes turning toward the instructors. It reminded me that there is always a touch of the cat in the wolf persists in every dog.

"A' what about crime?" I demanded. There was no more to be said. Nor to play the fool. Occasionally a few unstable souls who have mistaken their vocation try to return to civil life by way of a dishonorable discharge, and the New Army has no use for those people either, and attends to them on what may be called "democratic lines."

They are all the same as the old barracks room court-martials. They suffer fools gladly. There is no time to instruct them. They go to other spheres.

There was, or rather is, a man who intends to join a certain battalion. He joined it once, scraped past the local doctor and was drafted into the corps, only to be hove out for varicose veins. He went back to his accommodating doctor, repeated the process, and was again rejected.

They are waiting for him now in his third incarnation, for both sides are equally determined. And there was another Scot who joined, served a while, and left, as he might have left a bit of a factory. Somehow it occurred to him that explanations might be made, so he wrote to his commanding officer, who he recommended him to do.

The C. O. to his infinite credit, wrote back, "Suppose you rejoin," which the man did, and no more said. His punishment, of course, will come to him when he realizes what he has done. If he does not then perish in his self-inflicted wounds, he will make one first-class non-com.

## Gets Good Pipes.

I had the luck to meet a sergeant-major who was the sergeant-major of one of the regiments. He had had sure information that the kilts for his battalion were coming in a few days; so, after three months' work, he smiled. From kilts one naturally went on to pipes.

The battalion had its pipes—a very good set. How did it get them? Well, there was, of course, the duke. They went with him. And there was a Scotch lord concerned with the regiment. And there was a lady, with a certain clan connected with the battalion. Hence the pipes. Could any thing be simpler or more logical?

And when the kilts came the men would be different creatures. Were they good men? I asked. "Yes, vera good. What's to mislead 'em?" said he.

"Old soldiers," I suggested meekly enough. "Rejoined privates of long ago."

"Aye, there might have been a few such in the beginning, but they'd be more wanted in the Special Reserve battalions. Our boys are good boys, but, ye'll understand, they've to be handled—just handled a little."

Then a subaltern came in, with regimental forms, busily leaning on the sergeant-major, who explained, clarified and referred them on the proper quarters.

"Does the work come back to you?" I asked, for he had been long in pleasant company.

"Aye, it does that—it just does that." And he addressed the fluttering papers, lists and notes with the certainty of an old golfer on a well-known green.

Squads were at bayonet practice in the square. (They like bayonet practice, especially after looking at pictures in the illustrated dailies.) A new draft was being introduced to its rifles. The rest was getting ready for evening parade. They were all in khaki, so one could see how they had come on in the last few weeks.

It was a result the meekest might have been proud of, but the New Army does not cultivate useless emotions. Their officers and their instructors worked over them patiently and coldly and repeatedly with their souls in the job, and with their souls, minds and bodies in the same job, the same.

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## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY TICKETS.

Via Norfolk and Western Railway, \$4.50 Norfolk and return; \$5.50 Lynchburg and return. Final limit January 4, 1915.

## KING OF BELGIANS PROUD OF HIS ARMY

Gives His Followers Credit for Stopping Germans on Way to Coast.

GRATEFUL TO THIS COUNTRY

In Interview, He Tells of Frightful Sacrifices Belgium Has Made.

GRAND HEADQUARTERS OF THE KING OF THE BELGIANS, IN WEST FLANDERS, Sunday, December 20 (via London, December 23).—In the council chamber of an ancient Flemish town hall, from which he is directing, under German shell fire, the resistance of his war-worn little army blocking the road to Dunkirk and Calais, King Albert of the Belgians to-day told the Associated Press of the stand his soldiers are making against the German invaders.

The King's headquarters is located on one of the remaining dry areas of that small corner of Belgium still under his control. King Albert also requested the Associated Press to convey to the people of the United States his deep gratitude for their efforts to feed his subjects under German military rule.

The monarch was alone when the correspondent was admitted to the council chamber. He wore the simple uniform of a general of artillery, without insignia, beyond braided shoulder straps to distinguish him from his staff officers.

## LINES OF CARE SHOW

IN HIS YOUTHFUL FACE

Physically, King Albert looks hardened, but lines of care show in his otherwise youthful face. In manner he is decidedly shy, and he apologized for his English, which, however, was fluent. The light from a smoky oil lamp barely penetrated the recesses of the great hall, where from the walls of the great hall, where from the walls empty picture frames started down.

When the King saw the eyes of the correspondent fixed on these blank spaces, where a few months ago invaluable Flemish folk danced and sang, he smiled and said he no longer expected the Germans even to be in a position to take the frames.

Mostly he praised the courage of his soldiers.

"I believe," he said, "my army is courageous. My people, however, are too democratic for the same discipline they prevail in conscript armies. You will see something of the bravery of my people when to-morrow you shall have a chance to witness the peasants working in their fields under shell fire, actually lessening the losses of their homes, the destruction of which causes them great grief."

When Edgar Senger, Belgian attaché to the American Commission for Relief in Belgium, entered and presented King Albert with a report from the commission, showing that enough food was in sight to feed his people until February 12, the King turned to the correspondent, saying: "Will you be kind enough to convey to the American people my deep gratitude." He then wrote in English the following message:

"The magnificent generosity of the American people in forwarding immense quantities of gifts and food-stuffs to my suffering people affords me intense satisfaction and touches me deeply."

"In this, my country's hour of trial, nothing has supported me more than the sympathy and the superb generosity of those who have assisted in the materially lessening the same, and I desire to offer my deepest thanks and at the same time to convey a message of good will for the new year."

(Signed) "ALBERT."

King Albert was anxious to give the American people know, as he put it, the facts of the story of how his troops, demoralized and disorganized by the retreating German army, almost across the limits of their own country, turned at bay along the Yser and held back the Germans there at frightful cost in killed and wounded to their loss in the almost incalculable loss suffered in the desperate struggle by its owners of the most valuable agricultural part of the country.

"In one of those terrible nine days in Belgium," he said, "the Yser, the King said, "I know that the brave Belgian soldiers were killed outright."

## THINKS HIS ARMY SAVED DUNKIRK AND CALAIS

King Albert continued: "I believe I am not claiming too much to say that our army saved Dunkirk and Calais at the battle of the Yser."

The King praised the good spirit of his soldiers now in the trenches. When the correspondent expressed a desire to see the Belgian soldiers actually in the trenches, he said:

"You may, but I cannot promise that this will be without risk. Mrs. Asquith expressed the same desire while she was visiting my wife a short time ago. When the party was taken to the second line of trenches a big German shell fell near-by, and it did not make our guests feel comfortable."

When the correspondent inquired as to the King's own safety, King Albert smilingly replied: "We must live under shell fire here."

Later inspection showed this remark generally true, as he stood in the middle of Belgium left under the rule of her King is free from the danger of shell fire.

King Albert repeated his expressions of appreciation of American relief for his people at the correspondent's request to leave, especially singling out Brand Whitlock, the American minister to Belgium, and Hugh S. Gibson, the secretary of the legation, for their efforts in Belgium's behalf. He declared Mr. Whitlock had done splendid work in Brussels as mediator between the Belgians and their conquerors and expressed the hope that Mr. Whitlock would remain at his post until the end of the war. "And understand that Mr. Whitlock came to Brussels for a rest," remarked the King, with a grim smile.

King Albert was averse to discussing the ruin which has overwhelmed the country, saying simply: "You will know something of it yourself, to-morrow, when you see our destroyed towns."

"Your Majesty, it has been predicted that you will re-enter your capital within three months," the correspondent said. The King shook his head, sadly saying: "Not so soon, but some day I shall ride into Brussels at the head of the Belgian army."

Bidding the correspondent good

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# ALL MAKE CLAIMS OF MINOR GAINS



KING ALBERT OF BELGIUM.

## MAY ERECT POST-OFFICE NEAR PROPOSED STATION

Government Inspectors Report Unfavorably on Enlargement of Federal Building.

NEED BETTER FACILITIES

Recommend That Post-Office Be Given Suitable Structure for Sole Use—Site Near Proposed Station Is Believed Best for Purpose.

Government inspectors sent to investigate postal conditions in this city have recommended that Richmond be given additional facilities, but are unanimous in opposition to the proposed enlargement of the Federal Building for that purpose. They favor an entirely different site, upon which to erect a suitable structure for an up-to-date post-office building in keeping with the growth of the city. That this building should be erected on a site in proximity to the proposed union station is recommended.

The report of the inspectors was not surprising, although many big civic organizations and prominent men have gone on record as favoring the purchase of property adjoining the present Federal Building, upon which to erect an annex, and for the purchase of the ground until after the proposed union station location is decided upon, is a new angle. There has been considerable agitation of this latter question, and it will soon be taken up for consideration and settlement. Plans for the building have been drawn, and two big railroads have announced that they will build in the West End. Opposition, however, and the unsettled condition of business has caused a postponement of building operations.

Every report of the inspectors sent to investigate the Richmond situation opposed the proposed enlargement of the present post-office building, and favored the purchase of a site and the erection of a new building elsewhere. Several fairly desirable sites have already been suggested, and one of them in Washington upon the highest authority that the government proposes to erect a new building on a site as near the union station as it is possible to get. This was done in Washington, although the station was nearly two miles from the old post-office.

Assistant Secretary Bryon Newton will submit to the Comptroller of the Treasury for his decision the question whether any part of the appropriation already made can be used for a site other than that adjoining the present quarters. It is believed that the site in Washington cannot be used, it is pointed out, it will only cause a short delay in getting the bill changed and the appropriation increased, in order to meet the demands for the ever-increasing business at the Richmond office.

## ADJACENT SPACE HELD TO BE INADEQUATE

A report recently made by the Post-Office Department points out that, at best, sufficient space could not be acquired adjacent to the present site to provide additional room enough to take adequate care of present demands of the postal service at that point, to say nothing of the requirements of the future. This report indicates that, aside from the present and future advantages to the postal service, a considerable savings to the government would be effected by the purchase of a site and the erection of a new building.

When the building was enlarged two

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## CHARLOTTESVILLE FIRE DOES DAMAGE OF \$100,000

Nearly Entire Business Block on East Main Street Wiped Out by Flames.

FIREMAN IS FATALITY HURT

S. H. Cooper Gleason Falls From Ice-Covered Ladder and Sustains Fracture of Skull—Three Buildings Occupied by Stores Are Destroyed.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., December 23.—Nearly an entire business block on East Main Street was wiped out to-night by fire, the total loss exceeding \$100,000.

The blaze started at 9 o'clock on the main floor of the Albemarle Hardware Company's establishment, a three-story brick structure, which was soon reduced to ashes. The firemen did splendid work, and apparently had the flames under control by 10 o'clock. Shortly thereafter, however, fire broke out afresh in W. J. Keller & Co.'s shoe store, the firm's large stock being ruined by fire and water.

Later, the Norman Building, the largest structure in the block, caught fire. This structure housed the White store, owned by G. F. Spitzer, one of the leading retail grocers of the city, and the People's Dry Goods House, operated by J. R. Sider and W. C. Caldwell, two contractors on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, and a store room just vacated by T. J. Wills & Co. Spitzer's loss is estimated at \$15,000, and that of the People's Dry Goods House at \$8,000. The stocks were partially insured.

The Albemarle Hardware Company carried a \$10,000 stock, and its loss is covered by insurance. The building, owned by Mayor Underwood, and P. B. Oberdorfer, was also insured.

W. J. Keller & Co.'s loss is placed at \$30,000, and their store room, owned by Colonel Thomas S. Keller, was valued at \$10,000. The stocks were partially insured.

The Albemarle Hardware Company was operated by a stock company, composed of Robert S. and L. J. Allagrey, J. A. Wells and C. R. Parrott.

Three families occupied apartments in the Norman building, which was burned out, losing most of their belongings. Two were widows, Mrs. M. E. Gilbert and Mrs. Manly.

Shortly after midnight the fire was apparently gotten under control, just before reaching M. C. Thomas's furniture establishment. Mr. Thomas had a \$10,000 stock stored in the Norman building, and this was a total loss.

J. C. Cullen's tailoring establishment, over Keller's was also destroyed.

S. H. Cooper Gleason, a young fireman, son of James E. Gleason, one of the city's most prominent merchants, was probably fatally injured by a twenty-foot fall from an ice-covered ladder. He struck on his head and shoulder on the cement sidewalk and sustained a fracture of the skull. He was rushed to the University Hospital.

## PLANS TO ENTER CONVENT

Another Daughter of House of Drexl Will Renounce Society.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

PHILADELPHIA, PA., December 23.—Another daughter of the House of Drexl, has decided to renounce society and devote her life to religion. Miss Lucy Dahlgren, granddaughter of the late Admiral Dahlgren, has announced that she will enter the convent of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, an order founded at Cornwall, Pa., by her kinswoman, Mother Katherine Drexl.

Miss Dahlgren's announcement created great surprise in society, as only her most intimate friends knew of her determination. She has been doing preparatory work for months at the convent attached to St. Leo's Church in New York.

She intends to devote her life to the service of the Indian and negro races.

## ARMIES FIGHTING WITH INTENSITY NEVER EXCEEDED

In Long Run, Ground Gained Now May Prove Vital.

OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS ON ALL BATTLE LINES

Germans in Poland Fail to Plow Way Through Russians.

BOTH SIDES SUFFER BIG LOSSES

Allies Score Successes in West, but Meet With Stubborn Resistance.

## Heavy Fighting Everywhere Along Intrenched Line

THERE is heavy fighting nearly everywhere along the intrenched line in Belgium and France, and in the eastern zone virtually from the Baltic Sea to the southern side of the Carpathians.

News that has been permitted to filter through official channels is not sufficient, however, to show clearly what any of the contenders has gained or lost.

The French, the Germans, the Russians and the Austrians all claim progress at various points, but none admits that a decisive advantage has been gained. From all sides, however, the official reports continue to show heavy casualties, and that large numbers of prisoners and munitions of war are being taken.

France, through her Parliament, apparently has given evidence of her determination to prosecute the war to the end. Both branches of Parliament have passed unanimously the government's bill appropriating \$1,700,000,000 to meet the expenses of the war, including the cost of the war.

King Albert of the Belgians, in an interview, in which he thanked the American people for the aid they have given his stricken people, asserted that he again some day would ride into Brussels at the head of the Belgian army. The King declared he felt he was not clinging too much to any that the Belgians saved Dunkirk and Calais at the battle of the Yser.

A newspaper dispatch from Athens asserts that Austria twice has tried to make peace with Serbia, but that each time Serbia declined the proposal.

The London Stock Exchange will reopen for business January 4, but trading will be restricted by stringent regulations imposed by the Treasury.

Great Britain will indemnify from the public funds people who were forced in the recent German raid on the east coast of England.

Rome has received a rumor that Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary is dying.

Queen Wilhelmina has decided personally to take \$1,000,000 of the Netherlands' war loan of \$10,000,000.

LONDON, December 23 (10:15 P. M.).—The allies in the west, the Germans in Poland and the Russians in East Prussia and Galicia continue offensive operations, but the advances have been so slight as to be almost imperceptible. In the long run, however, the various armies are fighting with an intensity never exceeded since the war began.

In Poland, the center of interest has shifted slightly to the south. Finding the direct road to Warsaw blocked by Russian reinforcements, the Germans made an attack from the southwest, and have reached Skirmisewice, some forty miles from the Polish capital. They thus far have failed to pierce the Russian lines, but have forced Grand Duke Nicholas to withdraw from before Cracow. In this, one of the chief aims of their offensive against Russia, the Germans have been successful.

In Galicia, the Russians have resumed the offensive against the Austro-German forces, which have poured in from the west and the Carpathians. According to the latest reports, the Russians have inflicted heavy losses on the forces, while in the north they have pursued back into the interior of East Prussia a small German army which made a feint at Warsaw from the northwest.

STUBBORN RESISTANCE

Although the allies have scored some successes in the west, they are meeting with stubborn resistance, and military men warn the public that a very heavy casualty list must be expected before any serious impression can be made on the German intrenchments. Activity seems to have been resumed along the Belgian coast, for it is announced that the allies have made slight progress between the sea and the road from Neuport to Westende. At other points similar fighting is proceeding with here success and there reverse or failure of attack. Armies on both sides have been busy, and aeroplanes have been swarming over Belgium, the fliers reconnoitering movements of the opposing troops and oc-